



NEWS RELEASE

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\$7 Million Funding For Kansas Water Projects Approved By USDA Rural Development **Five Kansas Regions To Benefit**

Topeka, KS – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks announced today that the Agency has approved \$7,098,100 in first-half Fiscal Year 2006 funding for five rural water service and sewer projects serving Kansas. The approved funding, split between \$5,286,300 in loans and \$1,811,800 in grants, will support the construction and/or completion of the important infrastructure projects that will provide long-term benefits to over 5,300 Kansans living in five communities or service areas.

“USDA Rural Development’s *Water & Waste Disposal Program* is one of the most important community and economic development efforts this Agency undertakes. These USDA funds, combined with the Agency’s helpful technical assistance which supports local leadership, helps make these critically needed services a reality. It is important that rural Kansans keep pace with their basic need to have access to safe and reliable water sources. Additionally, this valuable USDA program promotes economic growth and enhances the quality of life for the area residents served by these projects and all of Kansas,” commented State Director Banks.

The four new construction projects approved for funding by USDA Rural Development follow:

Osawatomie, KS - \$5,050,000 (\$3,550,000 direct loan and \$1,500,000 grant) The project, benefiting 4,645 residents, will serve the wastewater needs of Osawatomie, replacing approximately 10 miles of existing collection lines, rehabilitate three lift stations and 52 manholes, and construct two new manholes. USDA Rural Development funding will be complemented with a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant.

Geneseo, KS - \$336,700 (direct loan) This project, benefiting 272 rural residents, will replace the existing treatment plant by constructing a three cell lagoon system. USDA Rural Development funding will be leveraged with a \$336,650 Community Development Block Grant.

Harveyville, KS - \$690,000 (\$518,000 direct loan and \$172,000 grant) Funding of this project, which will benefit a population of 267 residents, will be used for installation of nine miles of transmission line, a booster pump station and telemetry controls for the water system. USDA Rural Development funding will be complemented with a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant.

Belpre, KS - \$238,800 (\$99,000 direct loan and \$139,800 grant) This project, benefiting 104 Belpre residents, will serve the City’s water needs by installing 3500 feet of transmission line from well #4 to well #2 and replace well house #2. Install ion-exchange treatment equipment to treat water from both wells, and upgrade the telemetry system. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with a \$198,000 Community Development Block Grant.

(continued)

Funding approved by USDA Rural Development to complete the following project follows:

Trego County Rural Water District #2 - \$782,600 (direct loan) Funding to complete Phase 3 and Phase 3A which will benefit 600 rural users, includes water lines, elevated storage tank, booster pump station, and telemetry control system.

During the announcement, State Director Banks thanked the Kansas Congressional Delegation for their continued support of the Agency's *Water & Waste Disposal Program*, along with the many other USDA Rural Development programs. "Over the past fifteen years alone, the Agency's *Water & Waste Disposal Program* has benefited more than 243,000 rural Kansans, contributing over \$3.8 billion in added growth to the Sunflower State's economy. We should all thank our U.S. Senators and Representatives for supporting this benefit to the entire State," remarked Banks.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunity and improving the quality of life of the State's rural residents. The Agency provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. During Fiscal Year 2005, USDA Rural Development provided nearly \$235 million in direct funding for community and economic development projects across rural Kansas.

For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, interested parties may call the Agency's state headquarters at 785-271-2700 or log onto the state's USDA Rural Development website at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

USDA Rural Development – *Committed to the Future of Rural Communities.*

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